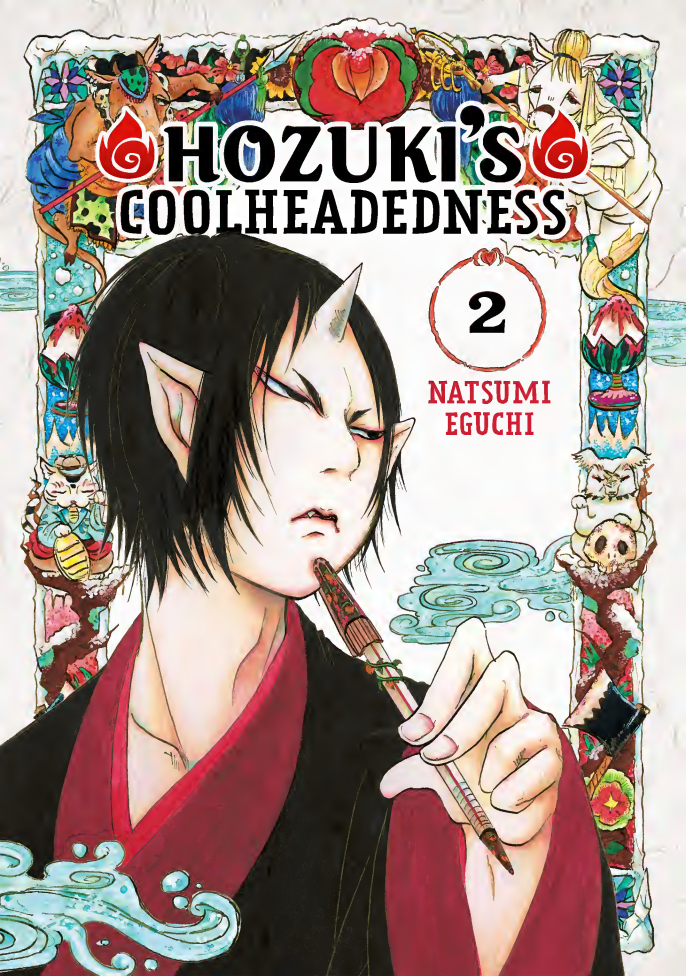
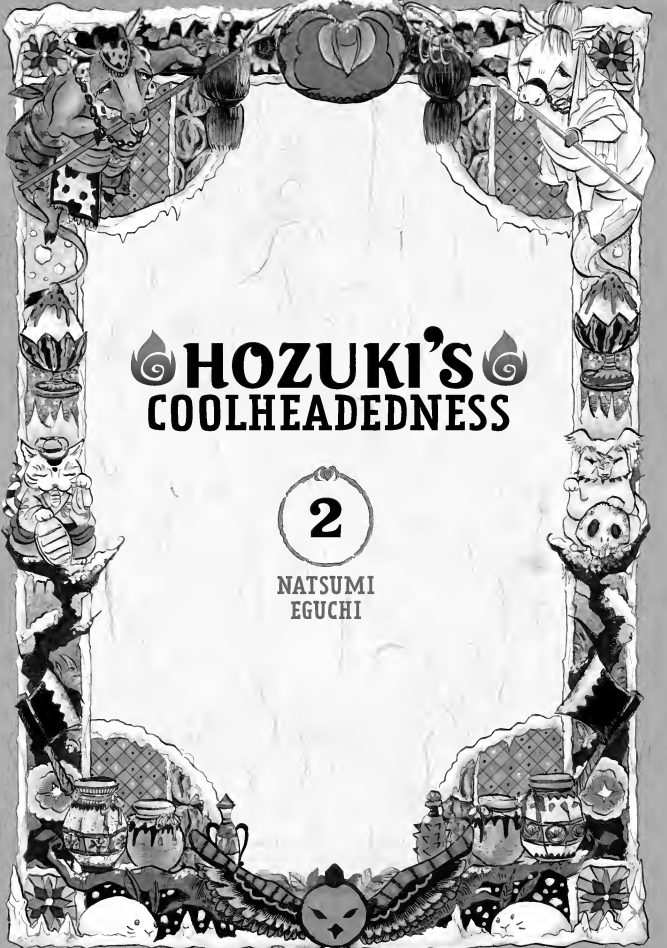


The cover features a central illustration of a character with black hair, a small white horn, and pointed ears, wearing a red and black kimono. The character is holding a traditional Japanese smoking pipe (kiseru) in their mouth. The background is a light cream color, framed by a decorative border containing various Japanese motifs like a fox, a deer, a cat, and a skull. The title 'HOZUKI'S COOLHEADEDNESS' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with red flame-like symbols on either side. The volume number '2' is inside a red circular frame, and the author's name 'NATSUMI EGUCHI' is in red text below it.

HOZUKI'S COOLHEADEDNESS

2

NATSUMI
EGUCHI



HOZUKI'S COOLHEADEDNESS

2

NATSUMI
EGUCHI

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 7	HELL'S YOTSUYA TAXI KAIDAN	3
CHAPTER 8	THREE DEAD ANIMALS!	19
CHAPTER 9	DUET OF THE DRAGON AND THE TIGER	37
CHAPTER 10	A MENTAL SPORTS FESTIVAL	53
CHAPTER 11	CATPARAZZI	70
CHAPTER 12	HELL IDOL, PEACH MAKI	87

HELL'S AFFAIRS AND THIS AND THAT

SATA. 2	NEW (HELL) RECRUITS	105
SATA. 3	CHATTING WITH LORD ENMA	113

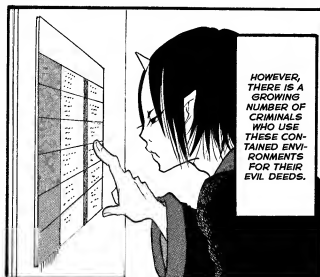
EXTRA CHAPTER -

JAPAN AFTERLIFE UNIVERSITY, HELL DEPARTMENT, MYTHOLOGY DIVISION, JAPANESE STUDIES MAJOR	121
--	-----



ATTENTION:

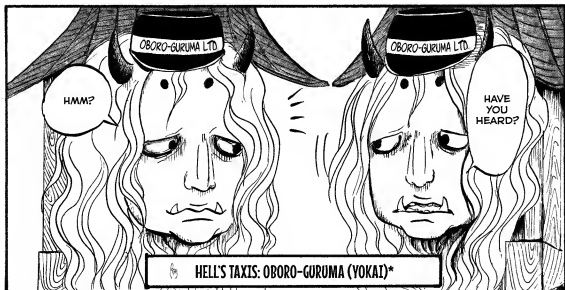
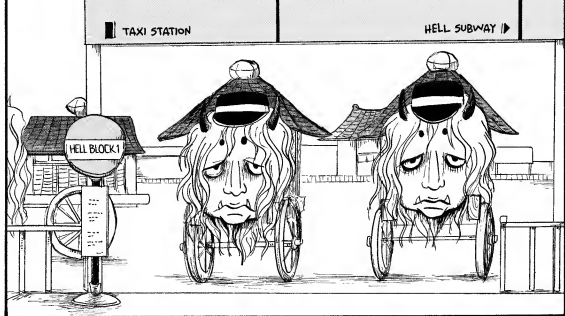
※ THIS MANGA IS A WORK OF FICTION, BUT HELL MIGHT ACTUALLY EXIST. BE CAUTIOUS OF HOW YOU ACT DURING LIFE.



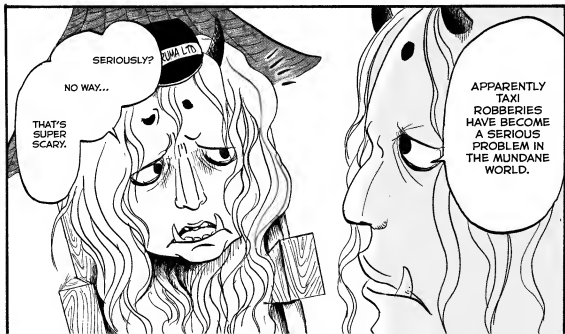


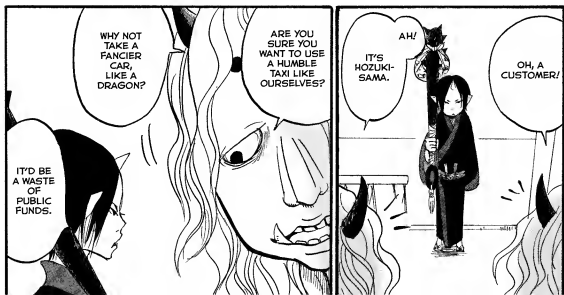
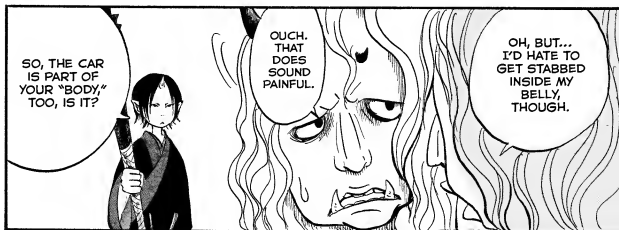
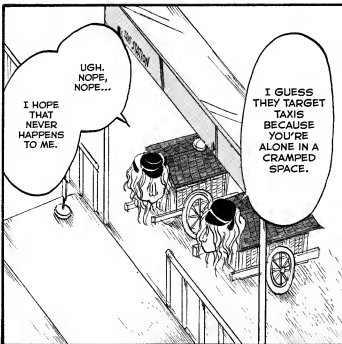
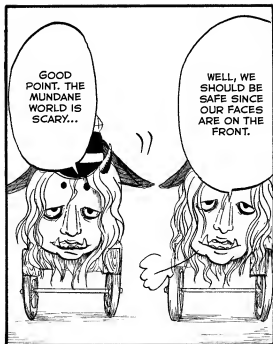
CHAPTER 7

HELL'S YOTSUYA TAXI K Aidan



*JAPANESE SPIRITS, DEMONS, AND MONSTERS.







YEAH.

PARDON?

BUT, Y'KNOW,
WE'RE KIND
OF IDOLS OF
THE VEHICLE
WORLD,
DON'T YOU
THINK?



IDOLS
?

SO THERE'S NO
HARM IN BEING
PREPARED FOR
ROBBERIES IN
THE FUTURE...

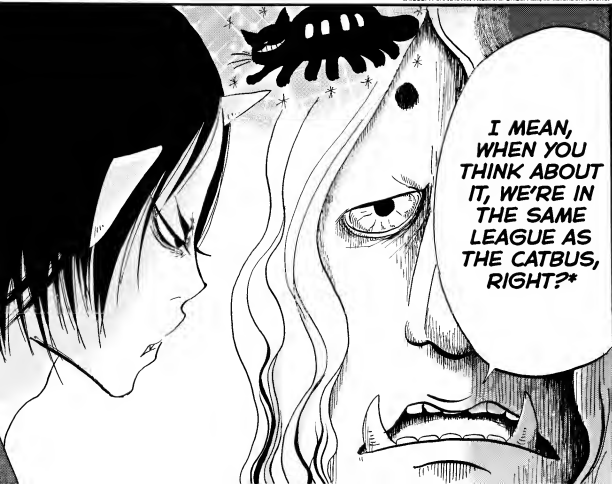


...BUT HERE
IN HELL,
PROTECTING
ONESELF IS THE
LAW OF THE
LAND.

IN THE
MUNDANE WORLD,
GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS
APPARENTLY USE
PRIVATE CARS
FOR SAFETY
REASONS...

YEAH...
EVEN IF
YOU WERE
ASSAULTED,
THEY
WOULDN'T
STAND A
CHANCE.

*CATBUS: A CHARACTER FROM THE Ghibli FILM, MY NEIGHBOR TOTORO.



I MEAN,
WHEN YOU
THINK ABOUT
IT, WE'RE IN
THE SAME
LEAGUE AS
THE CATBUS,
RIGHT?*

VEHICLE POPULARITY RANKING



NIMBUS CLOUD
(HALL OF FAME)



CATBUS



CESSNA



FERRARI
TESTAROSSA



HARLEY
DAVIDSON



CAMEL



BICYCLE

MEI WOULD
HAVE BURST
INTO TEARS
IF SATSUKI
PICKED HER
UP IN ONE OF
YOU.

FOR A
DIFFERENT
REASON.

YEAH.

OBORO-GURU

WE'RE NOT
LUXURY
BY ANY
STANDARD,
BUT WE'RE
STILL A
COVETED
MEANS OF
TRAVEL.

*ITTAH-MOMEN, A YOKAI MADE OF A ROLL OF COTTON THAT FLIES THROUGH THE NIGHT.

NO. I'M
NOT GOING
TO DELIVER
FRESH
CORN OR
ANYTHING.*

WHERE TO?
A CERTAIN
MOUNTAIN
HOSPITAL?

SO
...

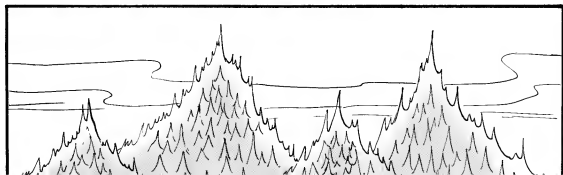
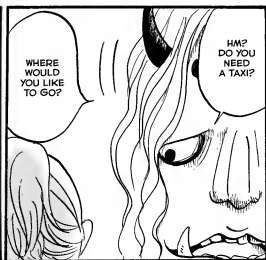
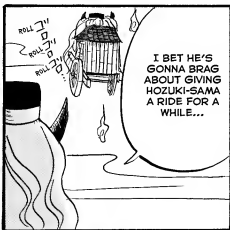
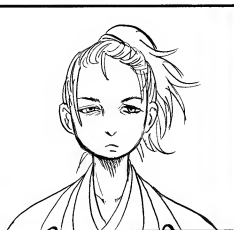
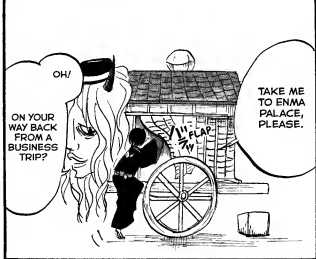
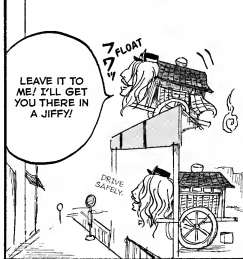
WHAAAAAT?
HE DOESN'T
EVEN HAVE A
ROOF.

BUT IN TERMS
OF CLASS, I'D
SAY YOU'RE
CLOSER TO AN
ITTAH-MOMEN.*

YOU MAY BE
STRUCTURED
SIMILARLY,

FAIRY
FAIRY

YOKAI





...SHE
WAS STILL
ALIVE!

IT
TURNS
OUT...

IS THAT
WHAT
FLIES AS
A HORROR
STORY
AMONG
OBORO-
GURUMA
TAXIS?

BRR.
ISN'T
THAT
SCARY?

SHE
WAS JUST
HAVING
A NEAR-
DEATH
EXPERIENCE!

THERE
WAS A
TIME WHEN
I WAS
FAMOUS
AMONG
THEM.

?

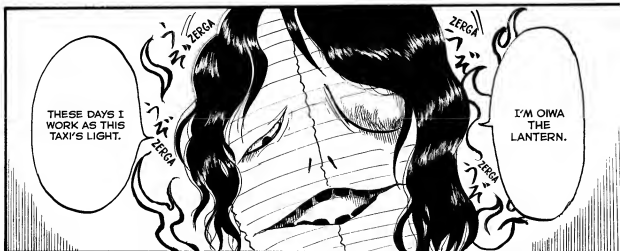
HORROR
STORIES,
EH?

YEAH, BUT
DOESN'T IT
GIVE YOU THE
SHIVERS TO
THINK "OH,
THEY WERE
STILL ALIVE"?

NEAR-DEATH
EXPERIENCES
ARE FAR
FROM
UNCOMMON.

ト
ト
GLUNK

ト
ト
GLUNK





YOTSUYA KAIJAN, THE MOST ICONIC JAPANESE HORROR STORY, IEMON TAMIYA, A RONIN OF THE ENYATCUAN POISONS, AND KILLS HIS WIFE, OIWA, IN ORDER TO FULFILL HIS OWN SELF-INTERESTS. OIWA RETURNS AS A VENGEFUL GHOST AND MURDERS IEMON. THERE ARE THEORIES THAT SUGGEST THE TALE WAS BASED ON REAL EVENTS.



I'LL SUE THE TAXI COMPANY IF I HAVE TO.

LATELY I FEEL LIKE I'M LOSING GROUND TO SABAKO, THOUGH.

LET'S ENJOY A LOVELY DRIVE TOGETHER, HANDSOME.

OH, IT'S FINE.



NO, REALLY. DON'T RACK UP THE METER WITH DETOURS.

ALL RIGHT, OIWA. LET'S GO TO THE POND...

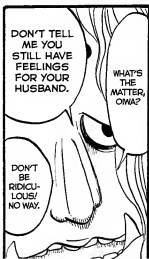
THAT STORY MAKES ME CRY EVERY TIME.



REALLY...

CLUNK

RATTLE



DON'T TELL ME YOU STILL HAVE FEELINGS FOR YOUR HUSBAND.

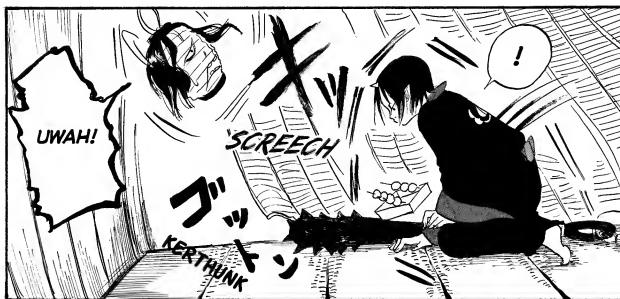
WHAT'S THE MATTER, OIWA?

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! NO WAY.



FLAP

CLUNK



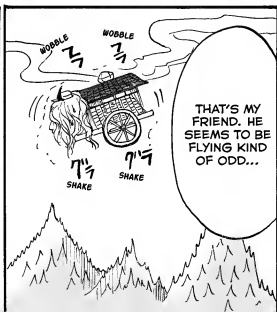
IS THERE A PROBLEM?

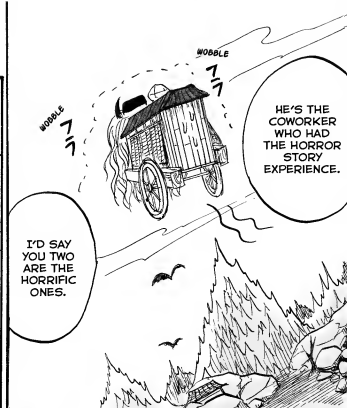


WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED?



BY FRIEND, YOU MEAN THE ONE AT THE STATION?





**IEMON-
SAMA
?!**

If you see
this man, call
the Crow-
Tengu Police
at 093.

HEY!

**WE
CAN'T
JUST
SIT
HERE!
TAXI,
FOLLOW
THEM!**

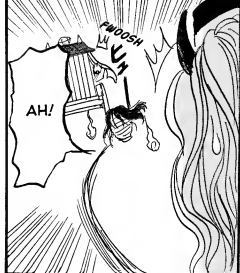
**IT'S
ALWAYS
BEEN MY
DREAM TO
RIDE THE
CATBUS!**

**SHUT UP
ALREADY,
WILL
YOU?**

**HIS
LOOKS
ARE
WASTED.**

**HE'S
SURPRIS-
INGLY
STUPID!**

**NO.
PLEASE
DO NOT
WILLFULLY
METTLE
IN POLICE
AFFAIRS.**



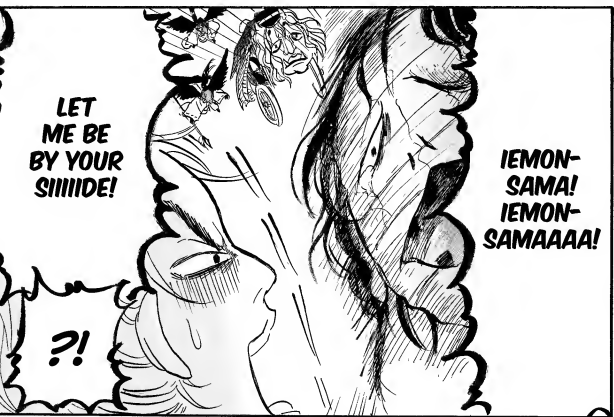
AH!



OIWA-SAN?

YOUR HUSBAND DUMBER THAN I THOUGHT.

HE PROBABLY PLANS TO TAKE THE TAXI'S MONEY AND FLEE, YOU KNOW.



LET ME BE BY YOUR SHIIIDE!

ITEMON-SAMA!
ITEMON-SAMAAAA!

?!



...YOU'RE 100 TIMES BETTER!

COMPARED TO HOZUKI-SAMA ...



OH, ITEMON-SAMA. YOU'RE SO VERY HANDSOME!



HOZUKI-SAMA'S OFF TODAY?

HUH?

AND WE CAME TO VISIT HIM, TOO...

AWW.

HIS PRODUCTIVITY WILL GO DOWN IF HE DOESN'T REST.

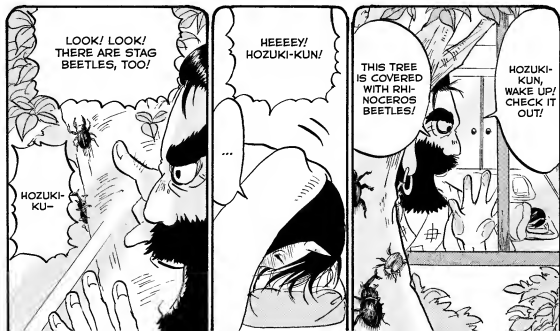
HE'S ALWAYS SO BUSY.

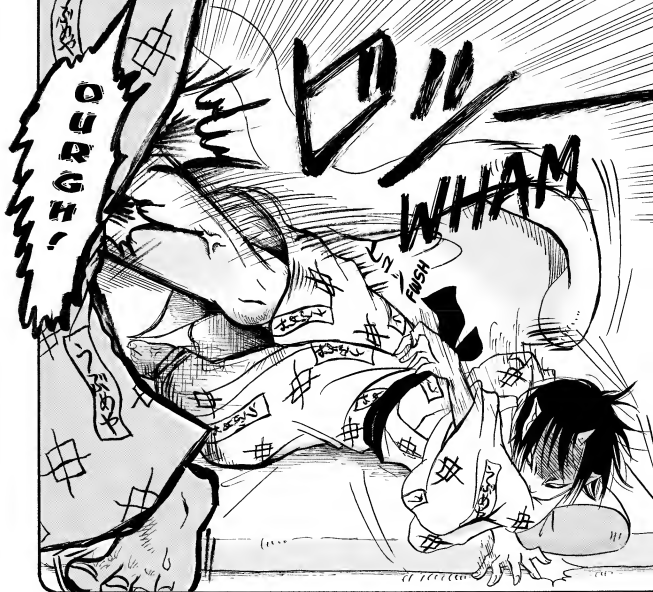
HE'S PROBABLY STILL SLEEPING.

UH-HUH. I MADE HIM TAKE THE DAY OFF SINCE HE PULLED TWO ALL-NIGHTERS BACK TO BACK.





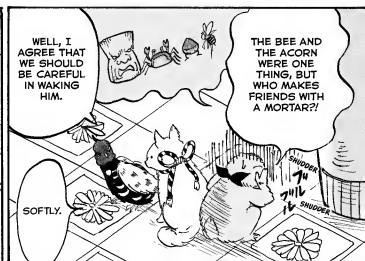


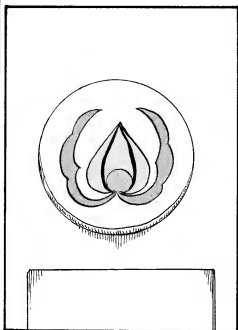


*MASATO: A FORMER JAPANESE WELTERWEIGHT KICKBOXER



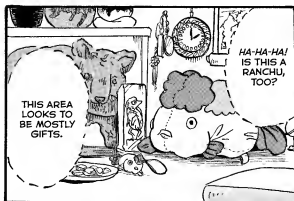


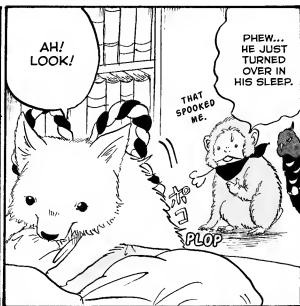
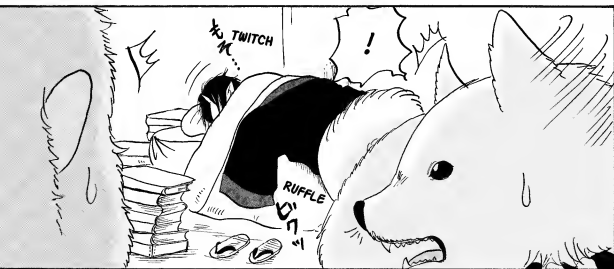


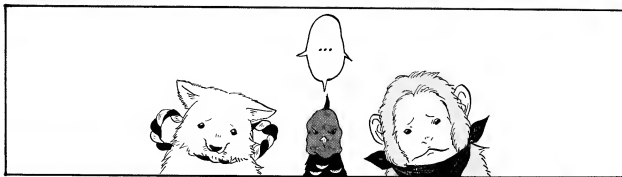
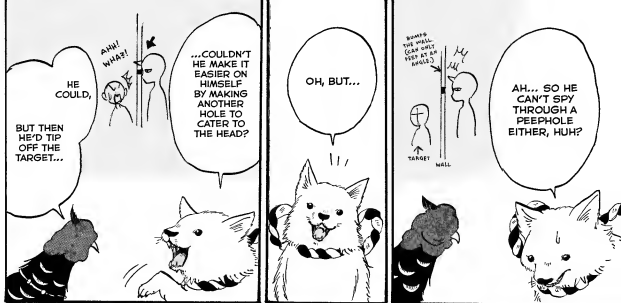


*MAIN PROTAGONIST OF THE ACTION THRILLER TV SHOW, EN.







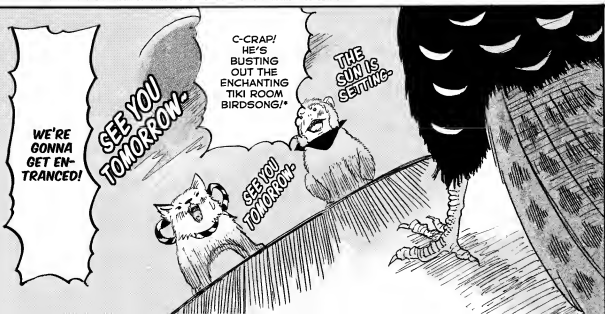




*THE SONG IS "NICE TO BE HUWAN," ENDING THEME OF THE ANIME MANGA FOLKTALES FROM JAPAN.



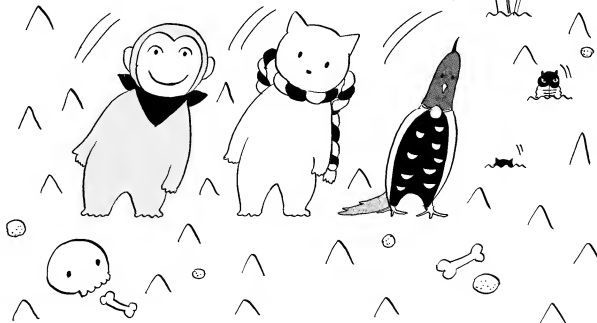
*THE ENCHANTING TIKI ROOM IS AN ATTRACTION AT DISNEYLAND FULL OF ANIMATRONIC SONGBIRDS.



SO~ NICE.

SO~ NICE.

IT'S NICE TO BE A HU-MAN.



IT'S TIME FOR ME
TO GO HOME, TOO.



oioioi

TASTY SNACKS
AND WARM RICE-
THEY MUST BE WAITING
FOR THE KIDS TO
COME HOME.

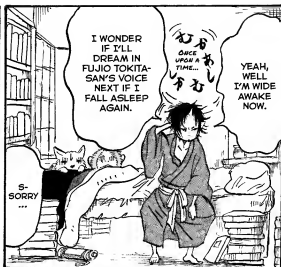


SPONSOR:
ANIMAL TORTURER HELL
MUSIC:
MOMOTARO BROTHERS
SOUND ENGINEERING:
LURIO

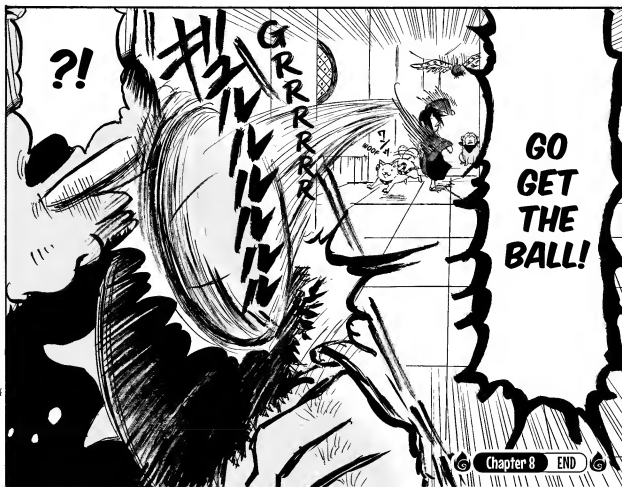
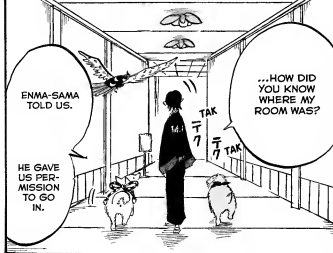


*FAMOUS JAPANESE ACTRESS WHO NARRATED FOR MANGA FOLKTALES FROM JAPAN.









Hozuki's Room

Hozuki's office that appeared in chapter five. Also serves as a station for approving documents.

Lord Enma's courtroom.

Employee quarters, etc.

Books.

Medicine shelves.

Experiment table.

Table of souvenirs and other trinkets.

Washroom

Toilet/Shower

Hozuki tends to use the large public bath on-site.

Bookshelves lining most of the walls.

No kitchen. Meals are typically had in the cafeteria.

Fairly spacious but cluttered.

I received many comments from female readers saying, "I liked how his room is pretty messy." I'm glad to hear that.

"Someone who likes to keep a clean space but also wants to keep things on display. As a busy person in a position where receiving souvenirs and written works is common, things like books and other knickknacks pile up naturally." That's the sort of room I shot for.

I often read like this only to nod off and drop the book and when I wake up I forget where I left off.



Clothes

Hozuki

His design is basically composed of traditional Japanese clothes with other elements added.

Machine washable.

A normal Japanese yakuza loves like this.



The concept of Hell in Japan is mostly based on its Chinese Buddhism counterpart. As such, there is a lot of art featuring people wearing Taoist robes. I borrowed from that motif.

Black is the representative color of Hell.

The obi is tied with a clam's-mouth knot.



"Musubi-kiri"

A style of knot that tied so that it won't loosen when tugged. Preferable for once in a lifetime occasions.



There are many agers with long nails, so socks are rare.

Enma

Usually clad in red Taoist robes.

Scepter



Often drawn as the largest and most intimidating of the ten judges.

Hakutaku

I wanted to draw him as a cross between Chinese doctor and a fishy apothecary, but as time goes on, he looks more like a cafeteria worker to me.







...YOUR
SUPERIORS
WILL LOVE
YOU.



IF YOU
KNOW
YOUR WAY
AROUND
A PRIVATE
FILING
SYSTEM...

THAT
METHOD IS
DESPICABLE.



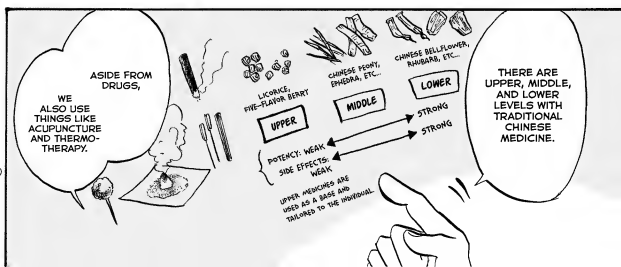
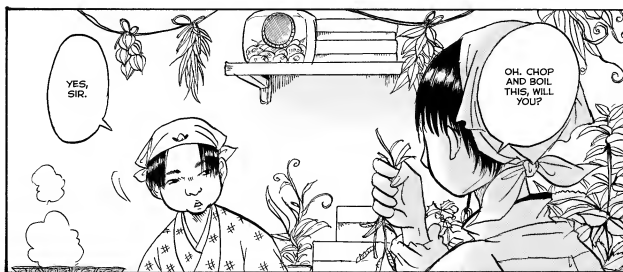
HUH?

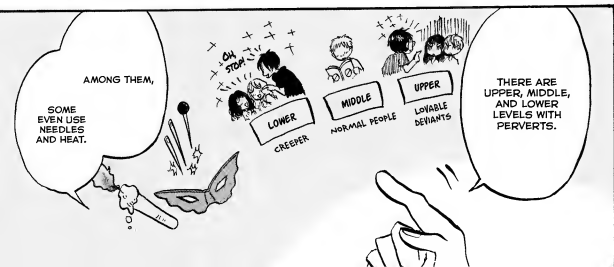
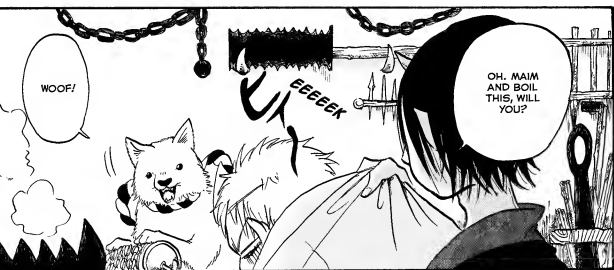
DISCOVERING
TRICKS AND
ORGANIZATION
METHODS
NOT FOUND
IN MANUALS
LEADS TO
EFFICIENCY.

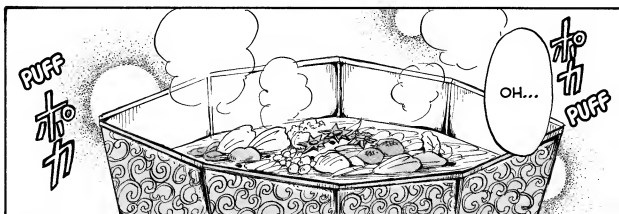
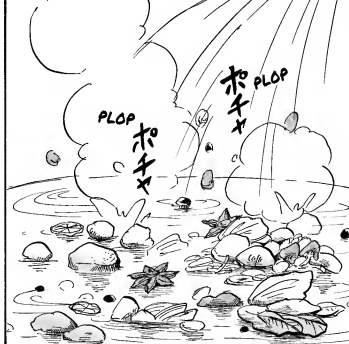


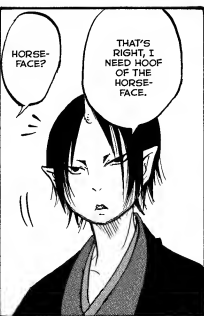
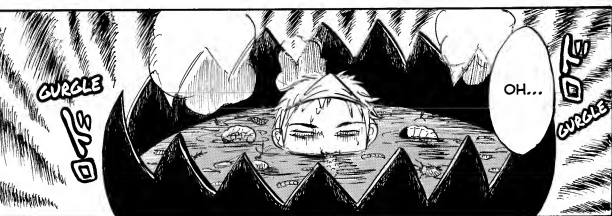
NOT AT ALL.
WORK IS
ALL ABOUT
"FINDING
YOUR OWN
SHORTCUT."

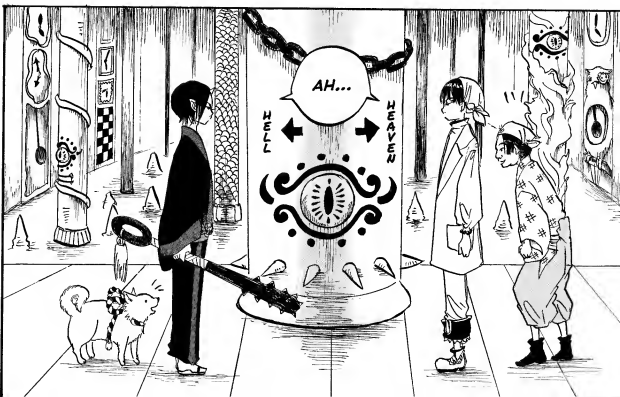


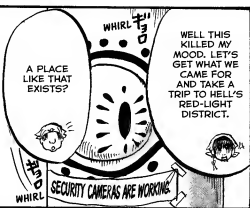






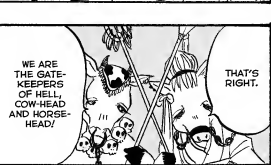
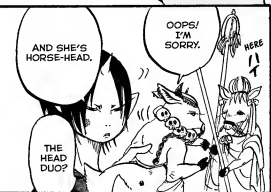










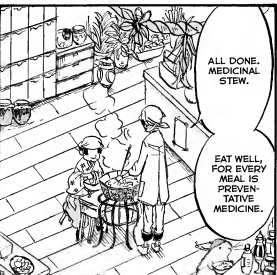
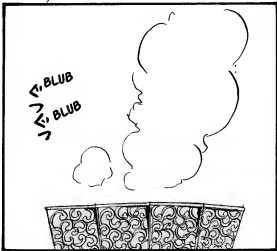


*SURI AND GURA ARE CHARACTERS FROM A SERIES OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS.





BLUB
BLUB
BLUB



TODAY WAS A
REAL PAIN IN
THE NECK...



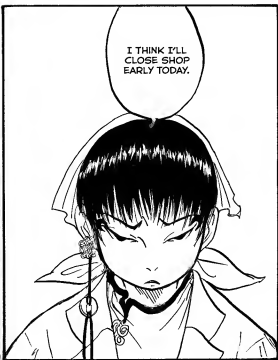
I MET A
REAL PAIN
IN THE NECK
TODAY...



I'LL CLEAN
HIS CLOCKS
SOMEDAY.

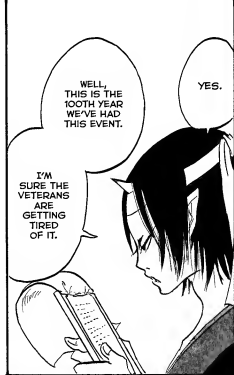


I THINK I'LL
CLOSE SHOP
EARLY TODAY.









WELL,
THIS IS THE
100TH YEAR
WE'VE HAD
THIS EVENT.

YES.

I'M
SURE THE
VETERANS
ARE
GETTING
TIRED
OF IT.



WELL,
THEN,
GUESS
I'LL TAKE
MY PLACE
IN THE
STANDS.

YOU'RE
THE CHIEF
ORGANIZER
IS THIS
YEAR,
RIGHT,
HOZUKI-
KUN?

CLAP
ほち
ほち
CLAP
ほち
ほち

CLAP
ほち
ほち
CLAP
ほち
ほち



REALLY?

I CAN'T
WAIT TO
SEE.

I DID MY
BEST TO
SPICE
THINGS
UP.



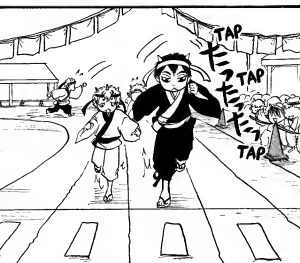
I WANTED TO
REEXAMINE
IT ON THAT
BASIS.

THERE ARE
A LOT OF
PEOPLE WHO
THINK SPORTS
EQUALS
MUSCLE.



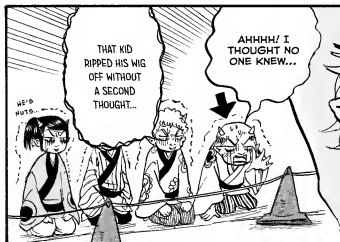
*ABOUT 50 DOLLARS.













THE GREAT
GATHERING OF
FLUFFY ANIMALS!
DOGGIE PANIC!



I ANTICIPATE
WE'LL SEE
A BLOOD-
PUMPING
BATTLE.

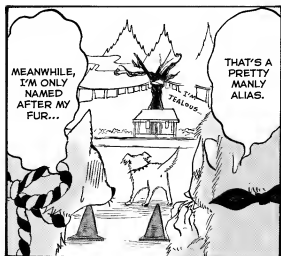
WE START
WITH CLEAN
DOGFIGHTING.



SEEING
AS THERE
ARE MANY
ANIMALS IN
HELL.

I DECIDED
TO MAKE AN
EVENT FOR
THEM. AS
WELL.

GOOD
IDEA. THE
ANIMALS
ARE
USUALLY
STUCK
CHEERING
FROM THE
STANDS.



MEANWHILE,
I'M ONLY
NAMED
AFTER MY
FUR...

THAT'S A
PRETTY
MANLY
ALIAS.



KYAH!! GO
GET 'EM,
DEAR!

キーン
SOVEAL

キーン
SOVEAL

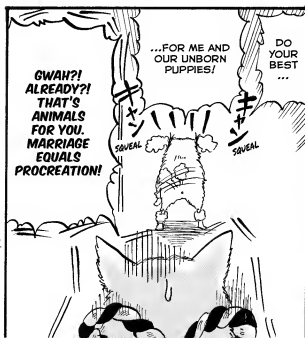


HUH?!
THAT'S
YOUR NAME,
SEMPAI?!
THAT'S SO
COOL!

GAPE

IN THE RED
CORNER WITH
THE FACIAL
SCAR. MAD DOG
YASHA-ICHI!

ANIMAL TORTURER HELL'S GALLANT INSTRUCTOR FROM CHAPTER TWO.



GWAH?!
ALREADY?!
THAT'S
ANIMALS
FOR YOU.
MARRIAGE
EQUALS
PROCREATION!

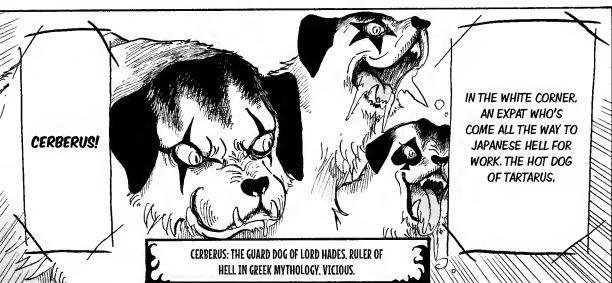
...FOR ME AND
OUR UNBORN
PUPPIES!

DO YOUR
BEST
...



THE
FORMER
COURT
LADY IS
HERE!

I LOVE
YOU!
YOU'RE SO
COOL!





4 TCH
y

MAYBE
PICKING
HIM WAS A
BAD IDEA.



**SEMPAI,
HOW AD-
MIRABLE!**

I HAVE
A WIFE
AND KIDS
TO TAKE
CARE OF.

UMM... I
FORFEIT.



**DON'T PUT
HIM ON THE
SPOT LIKE
THAT! HE'LL
FAIL FOR
SURE!**

CERBERUS
WILL NOW
SHARE
A FUNNY
ANECDOTE.

CHANGE
OF
PLANS.



THIS
REMINDS
ME OF
NIKKO...*

COORDINATED
GROUP MONKEY
GYMNASTICS!

**NEXT
UP...**

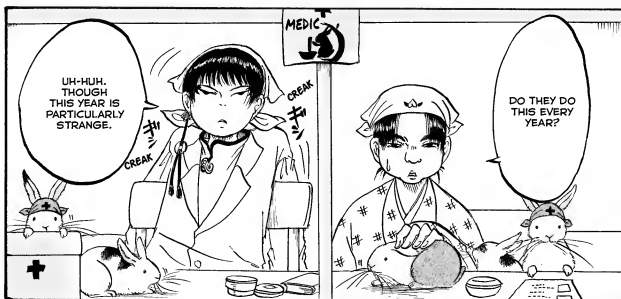


*A STATION IN OHSA PREFECTURE CONTAINS TOKYO DISNEYLAND AND THE ENCHANTED TKI ROOM.

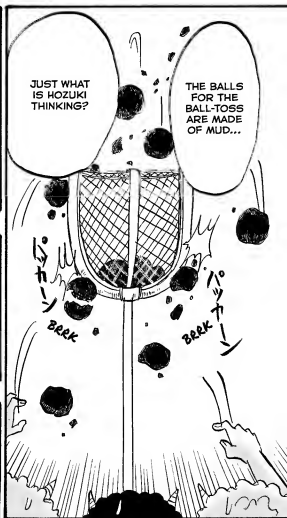


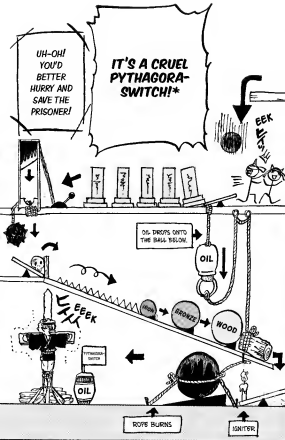
*CASTELLA IS A STYLE OF SPONGECAKE POPULAR IN JAPAN.





*SCARABS ARE A TYPE OF DUNG BEETLE.





*PYTHAGORASWITCH, A SHORT EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION PROGRAM IN JAPAN.





Cerberus

Formed a band once, but disbanded due to artistic differences. Yet technically, they can't detach from one another. Their center of gravity is a mystery.



What do you do when everyone wants to move in a different direction?



Karauri and Nasubi

Karauri - Like in any industry, he's the capable worker people recognize as "the newbie who will make it someday."

Nasubi - Like in any industry, he's the loveable screw-up.



 CHAPTER 11

CATPARAZZI

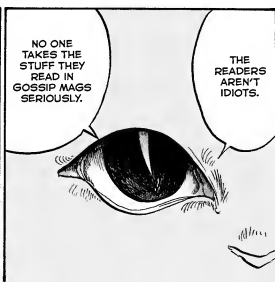
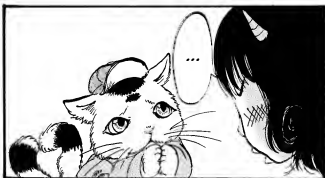








PEACH MAKI IS SUPPOSED TO BE A PURE IDOL!







*NEKOMATA IS A KIND OF CAT YOKAI.



I HAVE NO
ANNOUNCEMENTS
THAT WOULD
INTEREST A
TABLOID
MAGAZINE.



YOU AREN'T
WITH THE NEWS
DEPARTMENT,
CORRECT?

HOW CAN
I HELP
YOU?

タタタ
TAP
TAP

WEEKLY
SANZU RIVER
SPECIAL
REPORTER.

NEKO-
MATA
CO.*





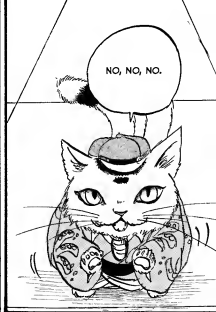
"UP CLOSE
AND
PERSONAL/
A DAY IN
THE LIFE OF
HOZUKI-
SAMA!"

WON'T
YOU LET
ME DO A
SPECIAL
ON YOU?

YOU'RE
ALREADY UP
CLOSE AND
PERSONAL...



I DON'T NEED
ANYTHING SO STIFF
AND FORMAL.



NO, NO, NO.



NO, I DO
LIKE CATS...

OR DO YOU
BY CHANCE
DISLIKE
CATS?

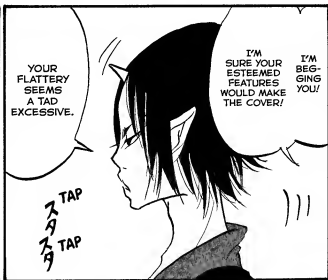
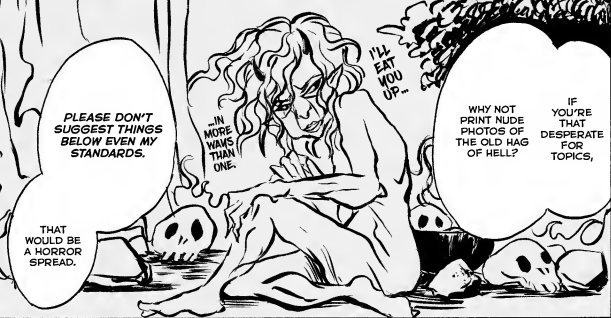


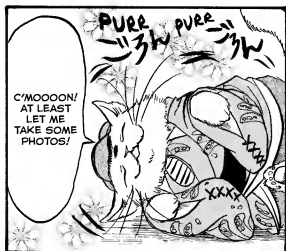
DON'T REACT
LIKE SOME
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL KID
WHO BROUGHT
HOME A STRAY
CAT.

WHAT? I CAN'T
WE HAVE FISH AT
HOME!

WHAT SHOULD
WE DO? YOU
TAKE THEM
HOME, PER-
CHANCE!

...BUT I
HAVE FISH
AT HOME.





AFTER
WHAT THAT
JERK DID
TO ME...

WITH THIS
INSIDE SCOOP,
I'LL THROW
THE RESULTING
HOT SELLING
ARTICLE IN
THE NEWS
DEPARTMENT'S
FACE!

I
FINALLY
DID IT!

YOU? HUH?
PEACH MAKI?

ME? I
HAVE AN
EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW
WITH KING
SHINKO
LINED UP.

OH, THAT
ODD NEW
IDOL, HUH?

SCOTTISH FOLD

LATER!

HOW YA
BEEN?
STILL
WRITING
GOSSIP?

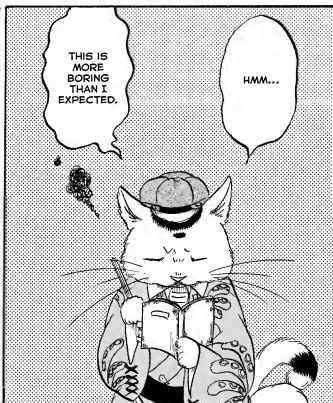
HEY,
KOBAN!

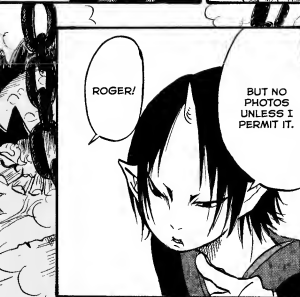
THAT
JERK
...

WHAT'S
WRONG?
ARE YOU
IN HEAT?

MIX

GRAHHHHH!

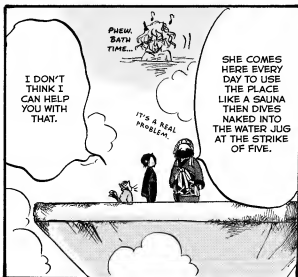






WHY ARE ALL
SO PUSHY
ABOUT A
NUDE OLD
LADY?

THE OTHER
DAY, THE OLD
HAG TOLD ME
SHE ALWAYS
WANTED TO TRY
A CLASSY NUDE
PHOTO SHOOT
JUST ONCE.

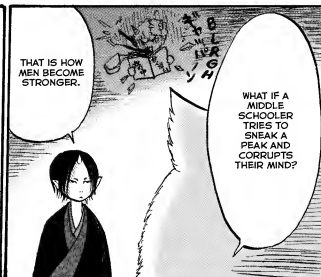


I DON'T
THINK I
CAN HELP
YOU WITH
THAT.

PHEW.
BATH
TIME...

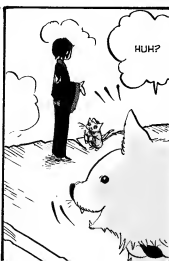
IT'S A REAL
PROBLEM.

SHE COMES
HERE EVERY
DAY TO USE
THE PLACE
LIKE A SAUNA
THEN DIVES
NAKED INTO
THE WATER JUG
AT THE STRIKE
OF FIVE.



THAT IS HOW
MEN BECOME
STRONGER.

WHAT IF A
MIDDLE
SCHOOLER
TRIES TO
SNEAK A
PEAK AND
CORRUPTS
THEIR MIND?



HUH?



OH! IT'S
HOZUKI-
SAMA.

SO THEN,
I...

TAP TAP TAP

**YOU'RE
ACTUALLY
A CAT
PERSON?!**



**HOZUKI-
SAMA!**

**WHAT A
FRIGHTENING
CHILD!***

THOSE
WHIMSICAL
LITTLE DEVILS
OUTSHINE
EVEN THE
MIGHTY DOG...

I TOLD
YOU, I'M A
GOLDFISH
PERSON.

カ
カ
カ
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER



I'M A
GOLDFISH
PERSON,
MYSELF.

HM?

C-CATS...
SUCH
TERRIFYING
MAGIC...



*REFERENCE TO A FAMOUS LINE FROM THE MANGA GLASS RACK.

**I'M NOT
INTERESTED
IN DOGS!**

I'LL DO
IT!

WHAT? AN
INTERVIEW?

SNAP
ぱん

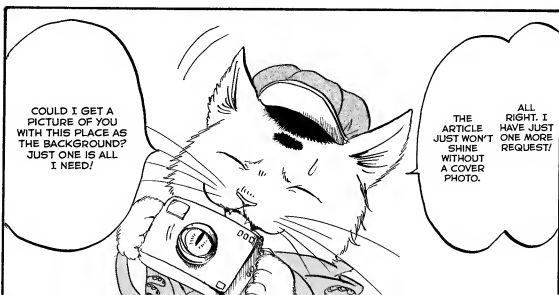


WHO'S THE
FUR BALL?

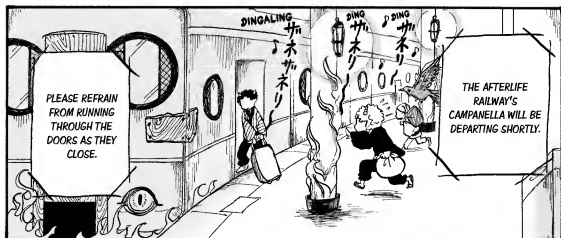
AN EX-
COMRADE OF
MOMOTARO.
WHY DON'T
YOU
INTERVIEW
HIM?

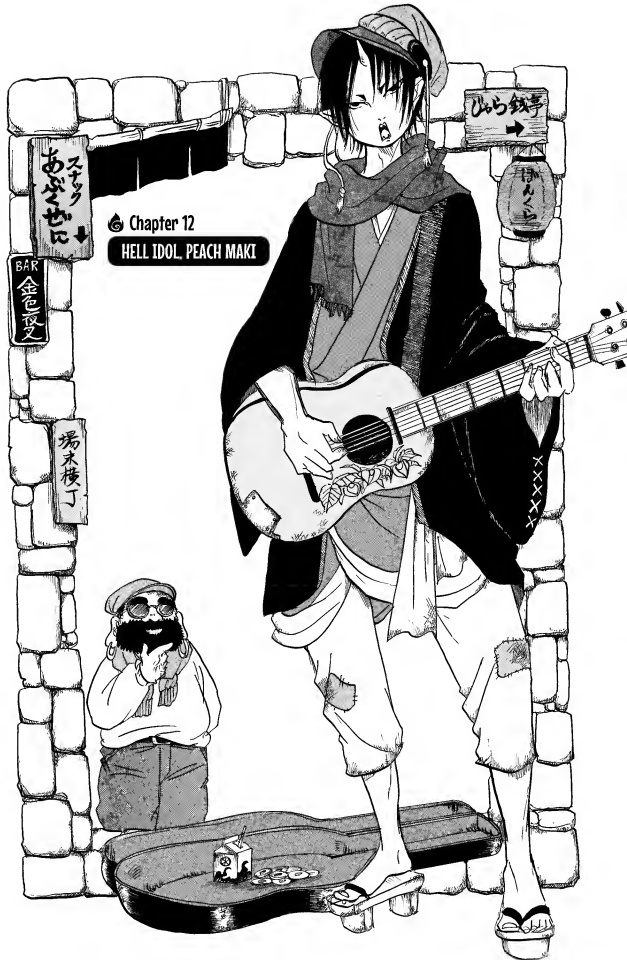


**W
A
H
H
H
H
H
H
!**









Chapter 12

HELL IDOL, PEACH MAKI





**Y-YOU
COULD
TELL?!**

ARE YOU THE
ENTERTAINER,
PEACH MAKI?

UMM.
EXCUSE
ME...

OF COURSE
I COULD.



I'M GOING
TO KILL MY
MANAGER.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
"NO ONE
WILL KNOW
THIS WAY"?

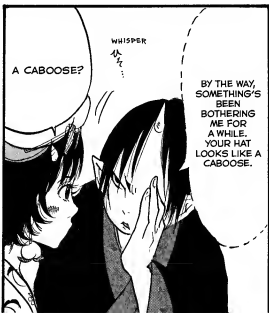
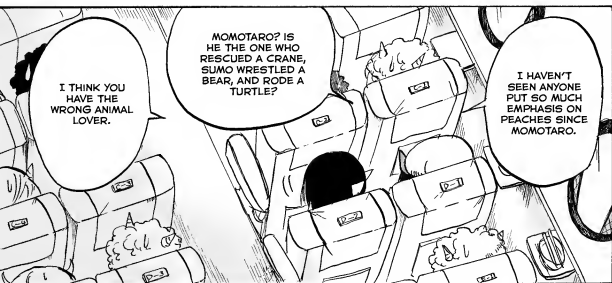
I DON'T
THINK IT'S
JUST YOUR
MANAGER'S
FAULT.

GRIT GRIT



SERIOUSLY
?!

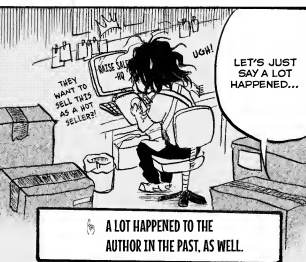
NO WONDER
EVERYONE IN
THE CAR IS
SNEAKING
PEEKS BACK
HERE.



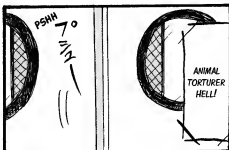
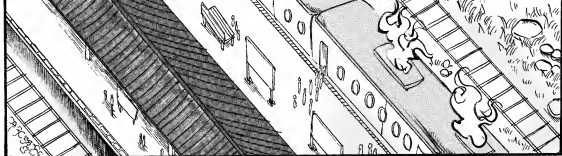


*D-2 IS KOTUKI'S SEAT NUMBER.

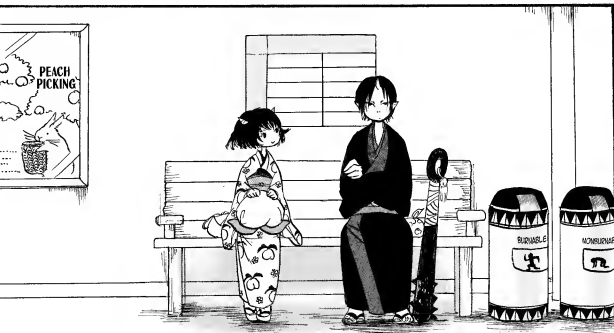


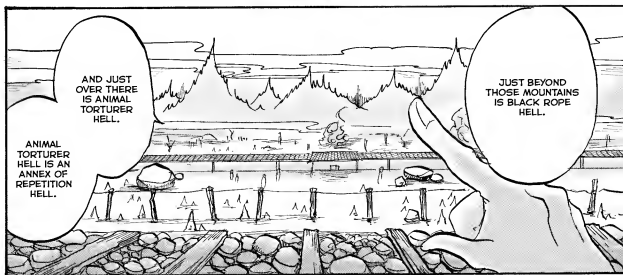


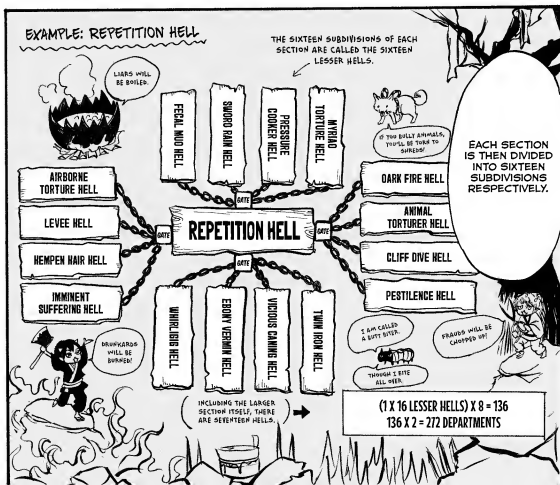
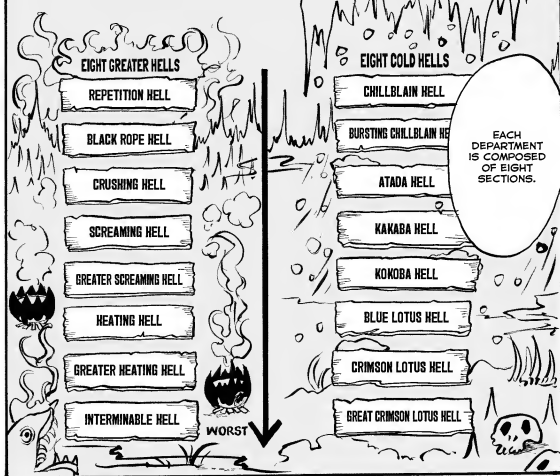




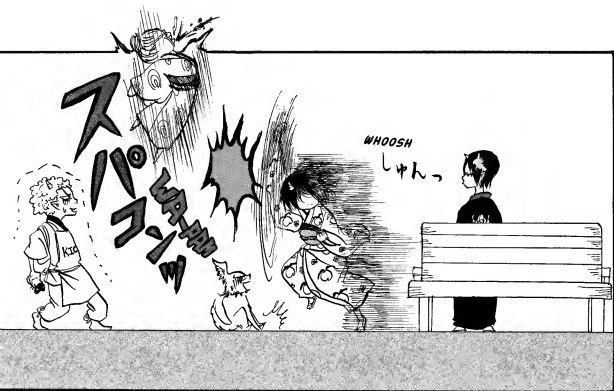
*MYSTICAL BALLS LOCATED IN THE ANUS SAID TO CONTAIN THE SOUL. SOUGHT AFTER BY KARPA.











*COLOR BALLS ARE AN ANTI-CRIME TOOL USED IN JAPAN USED TO MARK PERPETRATORS.

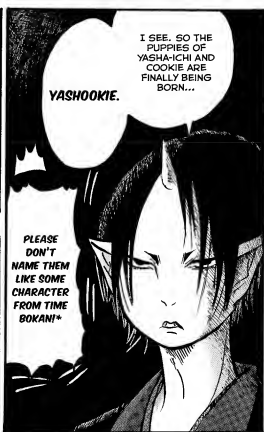
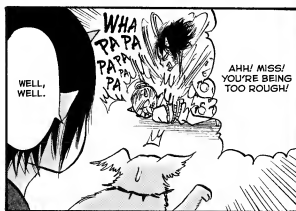
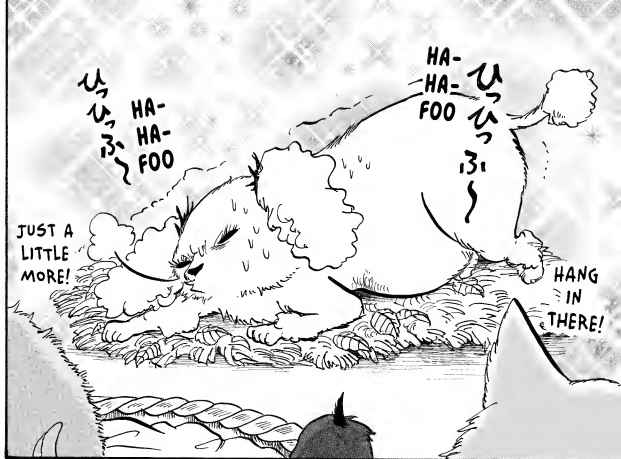


I HAVE
BIG PLANS
TODAY!

PLEASE
DON'T DIRTY
MY ONLY
GOOD
SUIT!



DID THE
COLOR BALL
BOTHER
YOU THAT
MUCH?!*



*TIME BOKAN: AN ALMIE ABOUT HEROES IN SPACE.



HEY,
MISSY!
OVER
HERE!

THIS
MUST
BE MY
LUCKY
DAY!

MAKE WAY!
MAKE WAY!

SKRFL
ギギギ

ギギギ
SKRFL

GEH!
KOBAN!

...HUH?

THANKS
TO THAT
COLD-
BLOODED
DOG OF
KING
ENMA...

DON'T BE
LIKE THAT.
THE OTHER
DAY I HAD MY
ARTICLE AND
MY STOMACH
SOURD BY
AN OLD HAG'S
NUDITY.

AND
BECOME
YOUR
SCOOP?
I DON'T
THINK SO.

WHY'D
IT HAVE TO
BE YOU?
WHATEVER,
LET ME TAKE
A SNAPSHOT.



Cow-Head, Horse-Head
and the Old Hag.

Some of Hell's more famous figures.

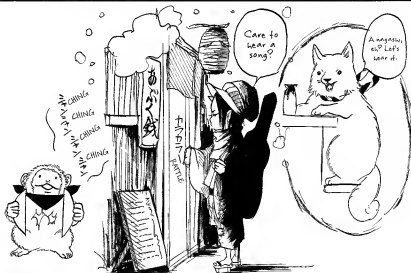
Cow-Head and Horse-Head are as the name states, monsters with the head of a cow and a horse. They are often drawn as men, but they have been made ladies for this story.

The Old Hag of Hell, also known as the Stripping Hag, strips the dead of their clothes and uses them to weigh their sins.



Nagashi (Guitar Nagashi)

Regarding the title page for chapter 12, which received surprisingly mixed reviews. I meant to portray Hozuki as a traveling nagashi artist, but it seems to have been hard to understand. The idea I had in mind was "the spirit of an idol."



Koban Nekomata

A major yokai that serves as the backbone for cat lovers. Maintains a favorable position among yokai fanatics for their adorable, yet fearsome appearance and mysterious aura. Mascot character of the yokai world.



"HELL'S AFFAIRS AND THIS AND THAT" ② • ③

These are short stories that had the honor of being published in Morning's newbie column.

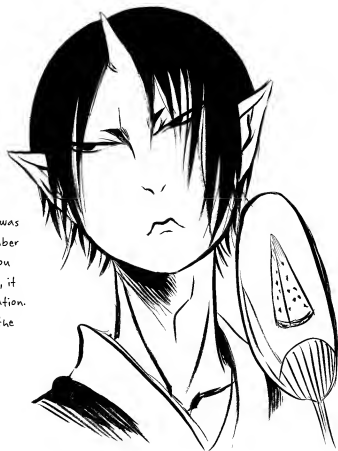
With only eight pages per chapter, this was the first time I put a lot of effort into writing a storyboard (before then I'd always drawn super sloppy, slapped together outlines unworthy of being called manga). While eight pages is short and seems easy to draw, there were some difficult aspects to it, as well.

- ② It was hard to draw hells and yokai outside of the normal spectrum, as explanations alone would take up the majority of the pages.
- ③ I'd drawn a number of chapters until then, but it was undetermined when they would be published, so I couldn't use anything that would have required reading the chapter before it to understand.

I can't say for sure if I managed to draw these while addressing the above challenges mentioned, but I will say that it gave me the chance to experience the troubles of drawing short as opposed to long chapters.

That being said, Hozuki's face sure has come a long way. But I bet that if in the future I look back at his face in volume two, I'll get that same "whoa" feeling.

When Hozuki's Cool-headedness was first serialized, I received a number of comments asking, "Why did you change the title?" The answer is, it was the result of much consideration. I apologize to those who prefer the previous title.



SATA. 2

NEW (HELL) RECRUITS

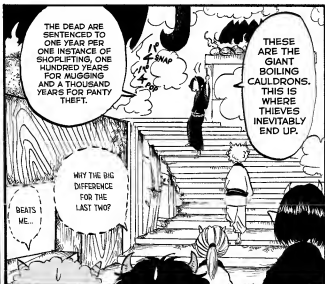
HELL'S AFFAIRS AND THIS AND THAT

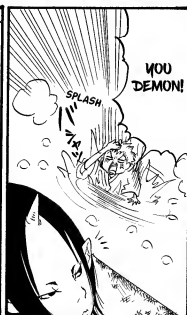
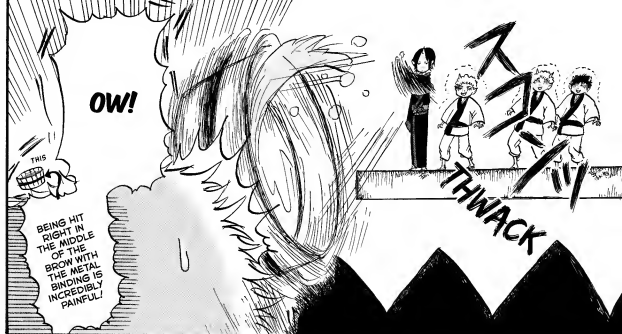


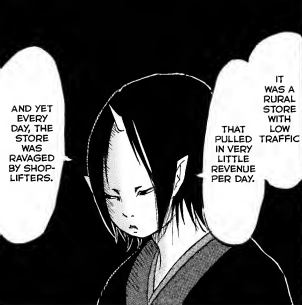




BEFORE REVEALING THE GOALPOST OF JAWING DOWN, A FANBOY
CULTURE WHO TOLLS FROM THE BACK TO GIVE TO THE ROAD.





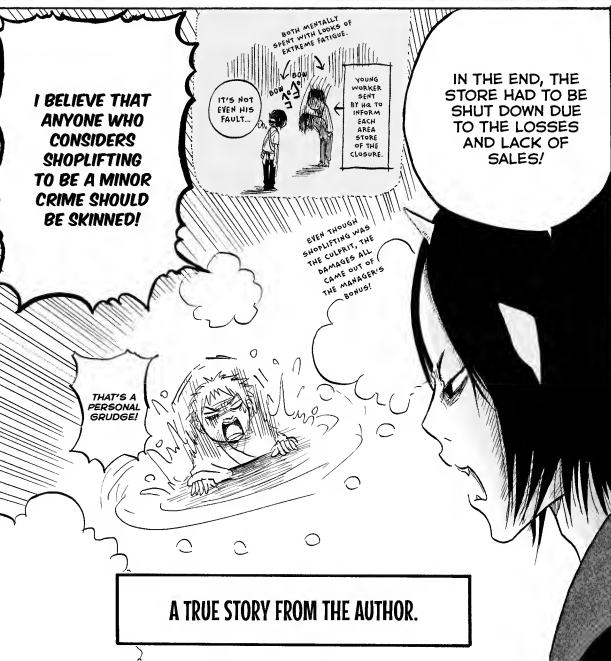


AND YET
EVERY
DAY, THE
STORE
WAS
RAVAGED
BY SHOP-
LIFTERS.

IT
WAS A
RURAL
STORE
WITH
LOW
TRAFFIC
THAT
PULLED
IN VERY
LITTLE
REVENUE
PER DAY.



LET
ME TELL
YOU A TALE
ABOUT A
CERTAIN
MANAGER AT
A CERTAIN
CHAIN
STORE...



**I BELIEVE THAT
ANYONE WHO
CONSIDERS
SHOPLIFTING
TO BE A MINOR
CRIME SHOULD
BE SKINNED!**

IT'S NOT
EVEN HIS
FAULT...

BOTH MENTALLY
SPENT WITH LOOKS OF
EXTREME FATIGUE.

BOW
BOW
BOW

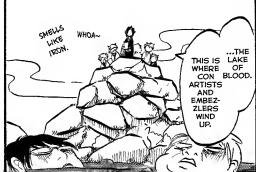
YOUNG
WORKER
SENT
BY HQ. TO
INFORM
EACH
AREA
STORE
OF THE
CLOSURE.

IN THE END, THE
STORE HAD TO BE
SHUT DOWN DUE
TO THE LOSSES
AND LACK OF
SALES!

EVER THOUGH
SHOPLIFTING WAS
THE CULPRIT, THE
DAMAGES ALL
CAME OUT OF
THE MANAGER'S
BONUS!

THAT'S A
PERSONAL
GRUDGE!

A TRUE STORY FROM THE AUTHOR.





ONLY THE MOST SEVERE OF SINNERS WIND UP HERE, SO NOT MANY NEW RECRUITS ARE APPOINTED HERE.

AND THIS IS INTERMINABLE HELL.



THIS HELL IS ALWAYS BUSY, REGARDLESS OF THE ERA.

A SYMBOL OF MISERABLE HUMAN NATURE.

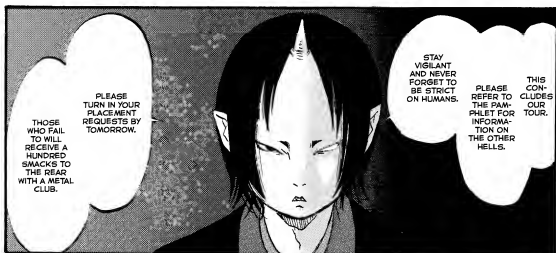
THIS IS MT. PINCUSHION, THE DESTINATION FOR CHEATERS AND DRUNKARDS.



WHERE THEY ARE CONSTANTLY REPRIMANDED BY DEMON MOTHER-IN-LAWS.

GOSSIPERS FALL HERE,

THIS IS SPIRITUAL HELL.



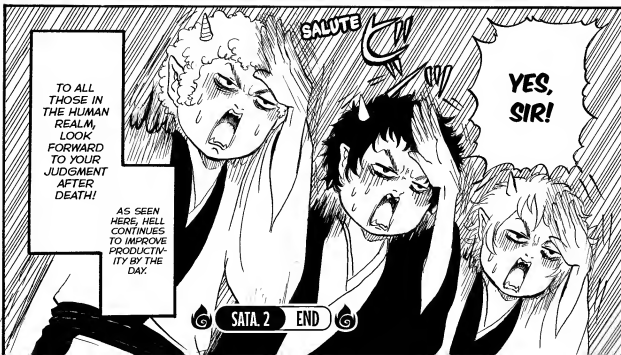
THOSE WHO FAIL TO WILL RECEIVE A HUNDRED SMACKS TO THE REAR WITH A METAL CLUB.

PLEASE TURN IN YOUR PLACEMENT REQUESTS BY TOMORROW.

STAY VIGILANT AND NEVER FORGET TO BE STRICT ON HUMANS.

PLEASE REFER TO THE PAMPHLET FOR INFORMATION ON THE OTHER HELLS.

THIS CONCLUDES OUR TOUR.



TO ALL THOSE IN THE HUMAN REALM, LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR JUDGMENT AFTER DEATH!

AS SEEN HERE, HELL CONTINUES TO IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY BY THE DAY.

SALUTE

YES, SIR!

SATA. 3

CHATTING WITH LORD ENMA

HELL'S AFFAIRS AND

THIS AND THAT



...HE NEVER
FORGETS
TO FIND
TIME TO
RELAX.

ALTHOUGH
KING ENMA
IS VERY
BUSY...



I AM
AWARE,
YES.

DO YOU MEAN
THE MUNDANE
WORLD CUSTOM
OF SITTING IN
A CIRCLE OF
ONE HUNDRED
CANDLES AND
TELLING ONE
HUNDRED GHOST
STORIES?

ENMA'S AIDE: THE WRATHFUL DEITY, HOZUKI.



HAVE YOU
HEARD OF
THE GAME
OF ONE
HUNDRED
TALES?

SAY,
HOZUKI-
KUN.



LIKELY
BECAUSE
IT'S AN
EASY WAY
TO SEEK
THRILLS.

WHAT
ABOUT
IT?

SOUNDS
INTERESTING,
HUH?

THEY DO
IT EVEN
THOUGH
THEY'RE
SCARED.



**THAT'S
NOT WHAT
I MEANT!**

**HOW CAN YOU
SAY THAT SO
CASUALLY?!**

VERY WELL.
I'LL GET THE
CHAINSAW.

ARE YOU
CRAVING
FOR SOME
EXCITEMENT,
TOO, LORD
ENMA?

OH?

YET
THEY'RE
DRAWN
TO SCARY
THINGS.

THEY DON'T
WANT TO BE
IN SCARY
SITUATIONS,

I WAS
JUST
THINKING
HOW
HUMANS
ARE SO
PECULIAR.

BUT SCARY
STORIES
EXISTED
EVEN BACK
THEN.

I WAS ONCE HUMAN
LONG, LONG AGO,

ENMA IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN THE VERY
FIRST HUMAN WHO DIED.

AHH,
I SEE.

I THOUGHT
YOU WANTED
SOME FEAR
IN YOUR LIFE.

WHAT I
MEANT TO
SAY IS THAT
GHOST
STORIES
NEVER SEEM
TO GO OUT
OF FASHION!

YOU WERE
PREPPING
FOR THE
MOST
DANGEROUS
GAME OF
TAG,
WEREN'T
YOU?!

JUNJI INAGAWA IS A FAMOUS GHOST STORY NARRATOR WHO HAS DONE A NUMBER OF TV SHOWS AND LIVE EVENTS.

I
GUESS
THAT
CAN'T
BE
HELPED
...

THOUGH IT
IS A SHAME
THAT NONE
OF HIS
STORIES
SCARE
ME IN THE
SLIGHTEST.

I LIKE
HIS
STORY-
TELLING.

YOU WATCH
THINGS LIKE
THAT EVEN
THOUGH
YOU'RE A
DEMON?

EVEN IN THE
MODERN ERA,
JUNJI INAGAWA
IS A STAPLE IN
SUMMER.*

YES.





**WHAT IS
EVERYONE
DOING
IN THE
HUMAN
REALM?!**

**PLUS THEY ALL
END UP BEING
RECOUNTS
OF STORIES I
HEARD FROM
JUNIORS OVER
DRINKS, SO I
COULD ALREADY
GUESS THE
ENDING.**



**I SPECIFICALLY
TURN DOWN YOUR
INVITATIONS.**

**YOU NEVER
COME WHEN
I INVITE
YOU!**

**I THOUGHT
YOU AVOIDED
THOSE KINDS OF
GATHERINGS.**

**WAIT, YOU
ACTUALLY GO
TO DRINKING
PARTIES?!**

**WHY
?!**



**THAT
SOUNDS
PRETTY
SPECIFIC
TO ME!**

**I JUST GET
TIRED OF
HEARING YOU
PRATTLE ON
FOR HOURS
ABOUT YOUR
GRANDSON. IT'S
EXHAUSTING,
REALLY.**



**WHAT DON'T
YOU LIKE
ABOUT ME?!**

**THERE'S
NOTHING IN
PARTICULAR.**



I DON'T TRUST
THE WORDS
OF A DOTTING
GRANDPARENT.

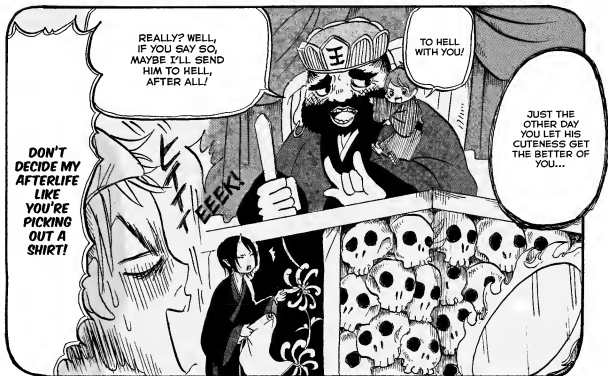
MY BAD
IT WON'T
HAPPEN
AGAIN.



YOU
DO.

I UNDER-
STAND
HOW YOU
FEEL, BUT
AFTER
THE FIFTH
TIME IT
GETS
PRETTY
TAKING TO
LISTEN
TO.

DO I REALLY
TALK ABOUT
MY GRANDSON
THAT MUCH?



REALLY? WELL,
IF YOU SAY SO,
MAYBE I'LL SEND
HIM TO HELL,
AFTER ALL!

TO HELL
WITH YOU!

JUST THE
OTHER DAY
YOU LET HIS
CUTENESS GET
THE BETTER OF
YOU...

DON'T
DECIDE MY
AFTERLIFE
LIKE
YOU'RE
PICKING
OUT A
SHIRT!

EEK!



HERE, TAKE
SOME DONUTS
AS AN APOLOGY.

I JUST
LOSE ALL
SENSE OF
REASON
WHEN IT
COMES
TO MY
GRAND-
SON.

THESE
ARE
GREAT.
THEY'RE
A LIMITED
RUN
AND...



SORRY, I'M
REFLECTING
ON THAT.
HONEST.

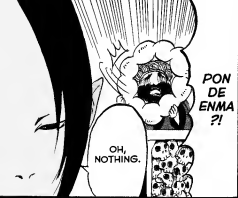
HE ISN'T AT
ANY FAULT,
BUT...

PLEASE
STOP
BRINGING
YOUR
GRANDSON
TO WORK
WITH YOU.



ONE HOUR LATER





*A PARODY OF PON DE LION, THE MARSCOT FOR THE DONUT CHAIN, MISTER DONUTS.





CHEE-CHEE-PIP-PIP CHEE-PIP-PIP.
THE TEACHER OF HELL SCHOOL
SWINGS ABOUT A WHIP.



WHAT IS
IT, PUPIL
SHIRO?

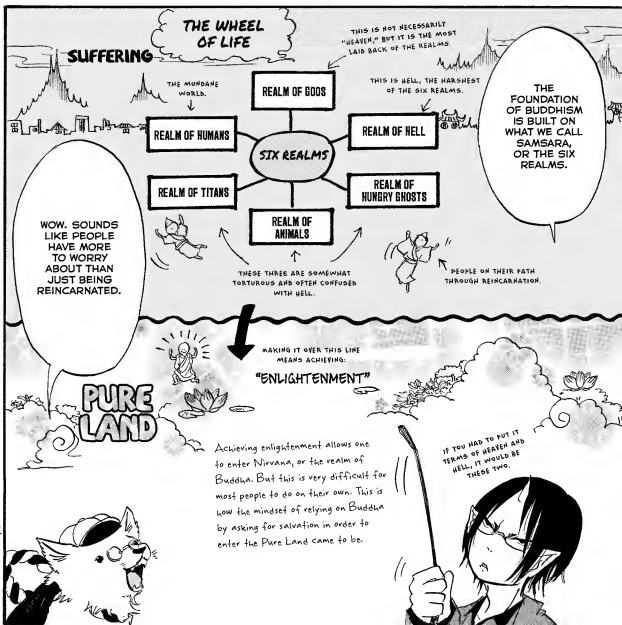
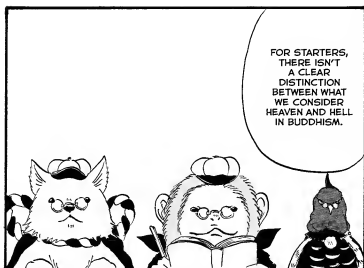
EXCUSE
ME, HELL
PROFESSOR
HOZUKI!

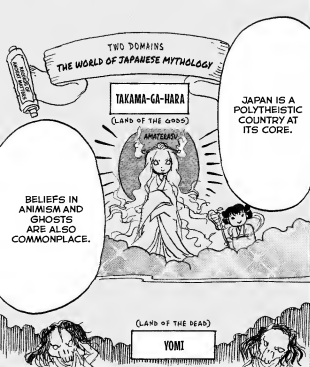


ALLOW
ME TO
EXPLAIN.

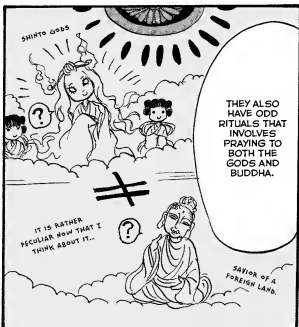
ALL THIS
ABOUT
HELL, THE
AFTERLIFE
AND
MYTHOLOGY
IN JAPAN
SURE IS
CONFUSING.
I
DON'T
GET IT.





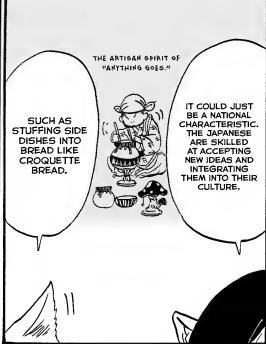


*INTERPRETATIONS VARY FROM PERSON TO PERSON. PLEASE TAKE THIS AS JUST ONE OPINION.





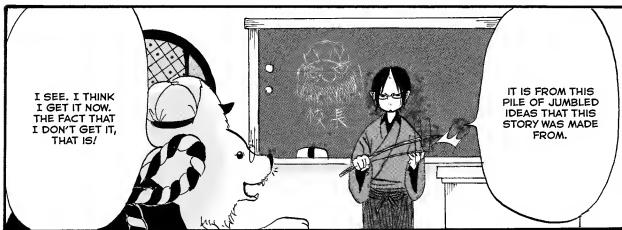
FURTHERMORE, BY MIXING IN OTHER IDEAS FROM CONFUCIANISM, TAOISM AND OTHER FOLKLORE, THEY'RE DEVELOPED A VERY UNIQUE IDEOLOGY.



THE ARTISAN SPIRIT OF "ANYTHING GOES."

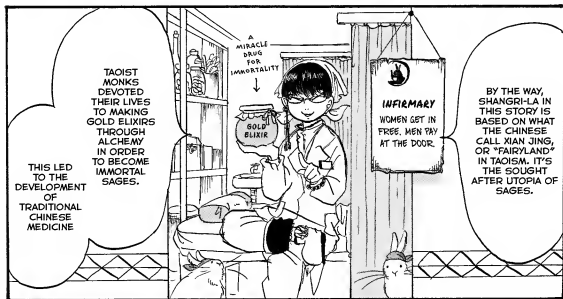
SUCH AS STUFFING SIDE DISHES INTO BREAD LIKE CROQUETTE BREAD.

IT COULD JUST BE A NATIONAL CHARACTERISTIC. THE JAPANESE ARE SKILLED AT ACCEPTING NEW IDEAS AND INTEGRATING THEM INTO THEIR CULTURE.



I SEE. I THINK I GET IT NOW. THE FACT THAT I DON'T GET IT, THAT IS!

IT IS FROM THIS PILE OF JUMBLED IDEAS THAT THIS STORY WAS MADE FROM.



TAOIST MONKS DEVOTED THEIR LIVES TO MAKING GOLD ELIXIRS THROUGH ALCHEMY IN ORDER TO BECOME IMMORTAL SAGES.

THIS LED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE

A MIRACLE DRUG FOR IMMORTALITY
↓
GOLD ELIXIR

INFIRMARY
WOMEN GET IN FREE. MEN PAY AT THE DOOR.

BY THE WAY, SHANGRI-LA IN THIS STORY IS BASED ON WHAT THE CHINESE CALL XIAN JING, OR "FAIRYLAND" IN TAOISM. IT'S THE SOUGHT AFTER UTOPIA OF SAGES.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF HOZUKI'S COOL-HEADEDNESS...



KARAOKE & MADRYL EXPERIENCE A DAY IN HELL'S EROTIC PARADISE!

13

MAN, WOMAN AND CRUSHING HELL

14

HELL STYLE ACUPUNCTURE

LORD ENMA SLIPS A DISK!
A sifting duck!



15

KACHI-KACHI HELL

Lazy Hell minions get a
dressing-down! Special Lecture:
USAGI-DON, MAKES AN APPEARANCE!



HOZUKI & HAKUTAKU

DUKE IT OUT IN A
CRUSHING
HELL TAVERN!

16

AN EXTREME EXAMPLE OF THE RUINATION
CAUSED BY ALCOHOL AND WOMEN



17

A SWARM OF DRUNKARDS

The dead of Great Screaming Hell (drunkards)
steal liquor and cause CHAOS!

18

THE MUDDANE WORLD AS SEEN
THROUGH ENMA'S CRYSTAL MIRROR

The only one of its kind.
A mirror that REFLECTS THE TRUTH.



19

AN UNSAVORY BRAWL



THIRD-RATE GOSSIP WRITER

KOBAN VS. HOZUKI, ROUND 3

...THESE SEVEN CHAPTERS. PLEASE LOOK FORWARD TO IT.

Hozuki's Cool-headedness
VOLUME THREE NOW

Hozuki's Coolheadedness 2

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

Hozuki's Coolheadedness volume 2 copyright © 2011 Natsumi Eguchi
English translation copyright © 2017 Natsumi Eguchi

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2011 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through
Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or
by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC,
San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682335987

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation by Adam Hirsch
Lettering by Daniel Park
Editing by Alexandra Swanson
YKS Services LLC/SKY Japan, INC.

